

Bridge Built, U.S. 40 Traffic To Be Detoured

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Jordanelle Dam Construction is on schedule, as is construction on the new U.S. 40 and Route A around the south side of the reservoir, according to Bill White, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) project construction engineer. He said Route C construction, along the north side of the reservoir, has been running behind schedule but is catching up and will be ready for use not long after traffic is diverted to the new U.S. 40 alignment on Oct. 1. In the meantime, traffic will be able to continue to use the present U.S. 189. White said Route A will be completed about the same time as U.S. 40, as planned.

But construction crews must divert the Provo River under the old U.S. 40, from the east to the west side, before the new alignment is completed. Therefore, a short detour bridge is being built across the diversion channel, alongside the existing highway, north of the dam-site. White said traffic will use the detour soon, but did not set a date when it will begin. He also said there will be no traffic delays except when there is blasting at the dam-site.

"We have to move the road to allow us to cut that channel through the existing highway without interrupting traffic. We've built the channel [as far as] the east side of the highway. We'll build a bridge across the channel. Then we will divert the Highway 40 traffic onto

that detour, which will then allow us to excavate through the existing roadway and connect our diversion channel, from the east side all the way around the damsite area, and through the present channel, constructed in the previous construction," White explained.

With the river rerouted, the dam-site can be excavated down to bedrock, cleaned, and rebuilt, in the same way the east and west abutments have already been prepared. At that point, actually construction of the dam will begin.

White said it will be about a year before the construction begins to look like a dam. He said it should be completed by 1993.

In spite of allegations that there may not be enough water available to fill the reservoir, Lee McQuivey, BOR assistant project manager, assured that there is plenty. He estimated it will take four to five years, even if they are low water years, like the past two years. But he hopes it will take only about three.

"We're claiming that we can store an average of around 120,000 acre-feet a year there. This past year, for example, we stored about 80,000 acre-feet of water in Deer Creek that would normally be stored in Jordanelle, when Jordanelle is in," he said. The same amount could have been stored in Jordanelle the previous year, he said.

The reservoir is designed to hold an average 320,100 acre-feet of water.



A bridge detour across a diversion channel for the Provo River is being constructed parallel to U.S. 40. Traffic will use the detour for awhile before the new U.S. 40 Highway is completed Oct. 1.